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Exhibit No. #1
Date 1-23-2009
Bill No. SB 119

January 23rd, 2009

TO: Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Rita Charles, Volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: SB 119- Medicaid buy-in option for individuals with disabilities

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rita Charles and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana –a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. AARP Montana believes that affordable health care should be available to all Montanans, and Senate Bill 199 helps to achieve that goal.

People with disabilities shouldn't have to choose between Medicaid coverage and employment opportunities. The state should take advantage of all available federal options to provide access to Medicaid through buy-in programs. Thank you.